

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An optical fiber observing image processing apparatus for the optical fiber fusion-splicer in which each of operation steps ranging from positioning of optical axes and end faces of optical fibers to fusion-splicing can be automatically controlled~~ is automatically carried out by capturing, into an image processing apparatus, and processing image data of the optical fibers photo-taken by television cameras from plural directions, comprising: and processing said image data, wherein:

said image processing apparatus comprises an image capturing means capable of capturing image data from two or more television cameras by at least one input processing circuit and capable of capturing and image-processing only desired image data from each of said television cameras;

~~and wherein~~

the capturing modes of said image capturing means provided with said at least one input processing circuit include at least two of a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from said television cameras from frame to frame and the image data from said television cameras can be captured by successively switching said television cameras from frame to frame, a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from said television cameras from field to field and the image data from said television cameras can be captured by successively switching said television cameras from field to field and a capturing mode in which the image data can be captured from said television cameras from pixel to pixel and the image data from said television cameras can be captured by successively switching said television cameras from pixel to pixel, said capturing modes can be switched according to each operation step to capture image data, positioning members on which optical

fibers are set are driven by a driving device on the basis of the captured image data so that positioning of optical axes and end faces of the optical fibers is made, and each of the operation steps up to fusion-splicing of the optical fibers by discharging of electrode rods is automatically carried out.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The optical fiber observing image processing apparatus for the optical fiber fusion-splicer~~ according to claim 1, wherein the capturing means has a capturing mode in which a field of respective television camera is divided into two or more so that the desired television camera is assigned to the respective divided field to capture the image data of the plural television cameras into one field in a multiplexing form.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The optical fiber observing image processing apparatus for the optical fiber fusion-splicer~~ according to claim 1, wherein said capturing means has a capturing mode in which one scanning line of the respective television camera is divided into two or more so that the desired television camera is assigned to the respective divided scanning line to capture the image data of the plural television cameras onto one scanning line in a multiplexing form.

6. - 27. (Canceled)